

Montana Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Initiative

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<http://hai-prevention.hhs.mt.gov>

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Healthcare-associated infections are a significant cause of death and contribute to the increased cost of healthcare in the U.S.
- The Montana Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Initiative is committed to the prevention of HAIs in Montana
- Many organizations are collaborating to ensure that HAI prevention activities are coordinated and effective across the spectrum of care

Healthcare-Associated Infections: Scope of the Problem

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are infections that patients acquire while receiving treatment for medical or surgical conditions. HAIs occur in all settings of care, including acute care within hospitals and same day surgical centers, ambulatory outpatient care in healthcare clinics, and in long-term care facilities. HAIs are associated with a variety of causes, including (but not limited to) the use of medical devices, such as catheters and ventilators, complications following a surgical procedure, transmission between patients and healthcare workers, or the result of antibiotic over-use. HAIs are among the leading causes of death in the United

States, accounting for an estimated 1.7 million infections and 99,000 associated deaths each year. Four categories of infections account for approximately three quarters of HAIs in the acute care hospital setting: 1) Surgical site infections; 2) Central line-associated bloodstream infections; 3) Ventilator-associated pneumonia, and; 4) Catheter-associated urinary tract infections. In addition, infections associated with *Clostridium difficile* and MRSA also contribute significantly to the overall problem. The frequency of HAIs varies by body site. Currently, urinary tract infections comprise the highest percentage (34%) of HAIs followed by surgical site infec-

tions (17%), bloodstream infections (14%), and pneumonia (13%). In addition to the substantial human suffering exacted by HAIs, the financial burden attributable to these infections is staggering. It is estimated that HAIs incur an estimated \$28 to \$33 billion in excess healthcare costs each year.



Prevention of HAIs through the implementation of evidence-based practices has become a national priority.

Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in Montana:

The Montana Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Initiative

Using funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, The Montana Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention Initiative (MHAIPi) was established in 2009.

The MHAIPi is committed to the following goals:

- Collaboration with other organizations to implement strategies for the elimination of healthcare-associated infections
- Standardization of surveillance practices

- Standardization of infection prevention and control practices in healthcare facilities
- Mentoring and supporting infection preventionists in all healthcare facilities in the state with evidence-based consultative services

Over the last two years, progress has been made in collaborating with like-minded organizations; standardizing surveillance practices through the use of National Healthcare Safety Net-

work surveillance protocols and data collection tools; and linking healthcare facility infection control and prevention professionals together to share ideas and coach each other about evidence-based infection prevention and control practices. In addition, numerous educational sessions have been provided to healthcare professionals interested in HAI prevention.





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**Committed to the prevention of
healthcare-associated infections**

The Montana HAI Prevention Initiative:

- Collaborates with healthcare quality and professional organizations to implement strategies for the elimination of HAIs in Montana
- Standardizes HAI surveillance and infection prevention and control practices throughout Montana
- Mentors and supports infection preventionists in all healthcare facilities in Montana with evidence-based consultative services

For more information:

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Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. - Henry Ford

Collaboration is Key

Collaboration among organizations with similar commitments to preventing and controlling healthcare-associated infections has been important to the success of HAI prevention efforts in Montana to date.



Mountain-Pacific Quality Health (MPQH), the CMS Quality Improvement Organization for Montana, Alaska, Wyoming and Hawaii, has been a key partner in MHA/PI activities. MPQH was instrumental in enrolling healthcare facilities in the National Healthcare Safety Network, a secure, internet-based surveillance system. Standardization of surveillance practices is the foundation upon which improvement activities can be built.



MHA... An Association of Montana Healthcare Providers has played a key role in efforts to decrease HAIs through its coordination of the On-the-CUSP patient safety initiative to decrease central line associated bloodstream infections. In addition, MHA's existing relationship with critical access hospitals (CAHs) through its Performance Improvement Network (PIN) has been important for "right-sizing" HAI prevention efforts for this healthcare setting.



Infection preventionists or infection prevention and control professionals are among the many healthcare professionals who work to ensure that patients, visitors and staff in healthcare facilities are protected from infections. The Montana Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) has been a key partner in HAI prevention activities in Montana. These dedicated professionals provide valuable input and benefit greatly from ongoing HAI prevention initiatives.

Collaboration between these and other organizations will continue to be the key for HAI elimination in Montana!